



Aruba Tourism Authority holds

## **SUCCESSFUL MEETINGS** **in Europe**





## Aruba Tourism Authority holds SUCCESSFUL meetings in Europe



**RECENTLY** Aruban executives traveled to Europe to meet with the Aruba Tourism Authority (ATA) Europe team and representatives of several hotels in the Netherlands, as well as a number of airlines. In the meetings, headed by CEO of the ATA Ronella Tjin Asjpe-Croes, the parties discussed the current production, as well as the economic situation in Europe, and projections for the second half of this year, and for the coming year. In spite of the fall of the Euro, a slight growth has been noted for certain countries. The Aruban delegates also discussed the ATA plans for Europe for 2016.

This year the ATA placed much focus on repositioning Aruba in the Dutch market, and intensified the focus on attracting the affluent visitor. These efforts are bearing fruit, the ATA informs, as several hotels indicate an increase in the quality of European visitors to Aruba. The ATA warns, however, that the devaluation of the Euro will remain a potential threat for European tourism for winter season 2015-2016. Aruba must also continue

attracting visitors of a variety of profiles, the ATA says, and also offer various types of accommodation on the market.

Along with the meetings, the ATA also hosted a cocktail reception for its partners in tourism, and invited trade journalists from the Netherlands specializing in tourism as well. These latter were able to receive information on the latest developments for the Aruban market.

### English market

The Aruban delegates, including Head of Marketing for the Aruba Airport Authority Jo-Anne Arends, also traveled to England to meet up with management of the British Airways. The airline is currently expanding its flights to the Caribbean and met up with the Aruba executives to find out about the developments in Aruba, and keep Aruba "in mind" as they consider potential destinations for their expansion. The ATA plans to continue the contact with British Airways, especially in light of

### England

being the second largest market for Aruba in Europe. The Aruban delegate also met up with Virgin Holidays in England, which is part of the Virgin Group, which also owns the airline Virgin Atlantic. Virgin plans to start selling Aruba during the summer, specifically hotels Occidental Grand, Radisson, Bucuti and Tara Beach, and the Hyatt Regency.

The ATA will be working closely with Virgin Holidays, towards increasing visitors from England, and strengthening Aruba's position in the market. Virgin Holidays is a renowned brand, and very popular in England, made famous by its founder Sir Richard Branson. They have strong a sales and marketing team and the ATA is proud to be part of the Virgin family. The Aruban delegation included Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the ATA Ronella Tjin Asjpe-Croes and Chief Marketing Officer (CMO) Sanju

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Daryanani. The meetings were held in the Netherlands with ATA representatives from the Netherlands, Belgium, Nordic markets, Germany, and England.

The meetings in Europe also included some held with various representation agencies in Sweden and Germany. This part of a structural evaluation process conducted by the ATA on a regular basis, in order to stay "sharp" in all its markets. The Aruban delegation also met up with representatives in the Netherlands of hotels Bucuti and Tara Beach Resorts, the Renaissance Aruba Resort and Casino, the Divi Resorts Aruba, the Amsterdam Manor Beach Resort, the Marriott Resorts Aruba, The Mill Resort and Suites, De Palm Tours, and the Talk of the Town Hotel and Beach Club.





# Aruba Happy FLOW

## launched at Aruba Airport

An innovative passenger process,  
unique in the world



THE signal for the official launch was given by Aruban Prime Minister Mike Eman in the presence of Minister of Justice Arthur Dowers, Minister of Tourism Otmar Oduber, President & CEO Schiphol Group Jos Nijhuis, Senior Vice President KLM Security Services Ben Swagerman, CEO Aruba Airport Authority N.V. James Fazio, Senior VP Vision-Box Miguel Leitmann and other invitees. Aruba HappyFlow is an innovative passenger process in which the passenger is only required to show his or her passport once throughout the journey at the airport. The use of facial recognition then allows the passenger to proceed to check-in, drop off baggage, pass the border and board the aircraft, all without being asked to show a passport or boarding pass again.

In order to do this, Aruba Happy Flow combines the public process of border control with the private passenger process at the airport. This is unique in the world and has been designed to streamline the passenger process, making it fast and secure.

### Cooperative effort

Aruba Happy Flow is the result of a cooperative effort by Aruba, the Netherlands, Aruba Airport, Schiphol Group and KLM. Following a tender procedure, Vision Box was awarded implementation of the project.

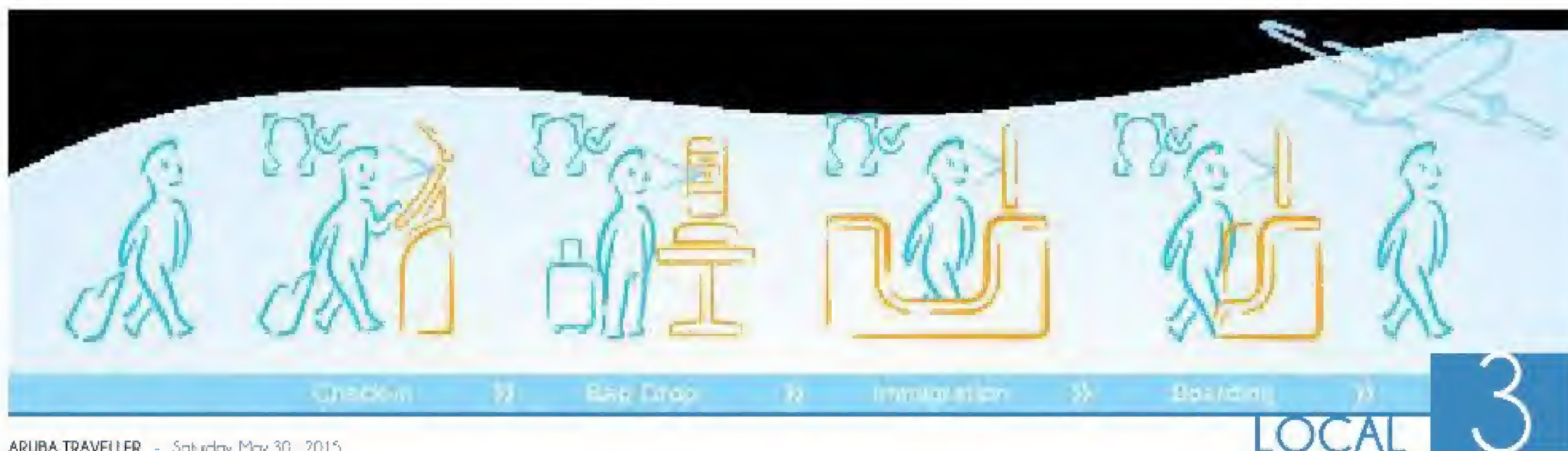
Prime Minister Mike Eman of Aruba says, "Happy Flow is an extremely innovative and important step in the transportation industry for passengers, not only for Aruba but worldwide. Aruba is very proud to launch this unique concept by bringing together public and private parties. Happy Flow is another milestone in creating a sustainable knowledge economy in Aruba and fortifying the development of Aruba as a hub. I am very much satisfied with this first phase concrete result from the partnership that was formed on the initiative of Aruba with the Government of the Netherlands, KLM and Schiphol to make this project possible as a prelude to the EU Pre Clearance ambition of Aruba." "With Aruba Happy Flow, together we have made an innovative step to further improve the comfort for the passenger. This is a unique project where amongst others the public and private passenger processes are combined. I have high expectations of the results. If the experience and test results are positive, we will further develop this

project," according to Schiphol's Jos Nijhuis. Ben Swagerman: "KLM is always keen on possibilities to further improve convenience for its passengers. This is why we are happy to be able to contribute to this innovative project, which will both simplify and speed up the entire process from checking in to boarding as passengers will only have to present their travel documents once." "As the Happy Island's National airport, we are proud to introduce Aruba Happy Flow. This project further demonstrates our commitment to improving the passenger experience, and introducing new and innovative technology solutions in order to meet our future growth in passenger traffic and maintain the highest levels of safety and security. This project was an extraordinary example of how the public and private sector can work collaboratively and achieve great things. What has been accomplished today will have the attention of airports around the world, regardless of size, we share many of the same challenges, and today, we are leading the way in a viable and innovative solution to improving the airport experience," said AAA CEO James Fazio.

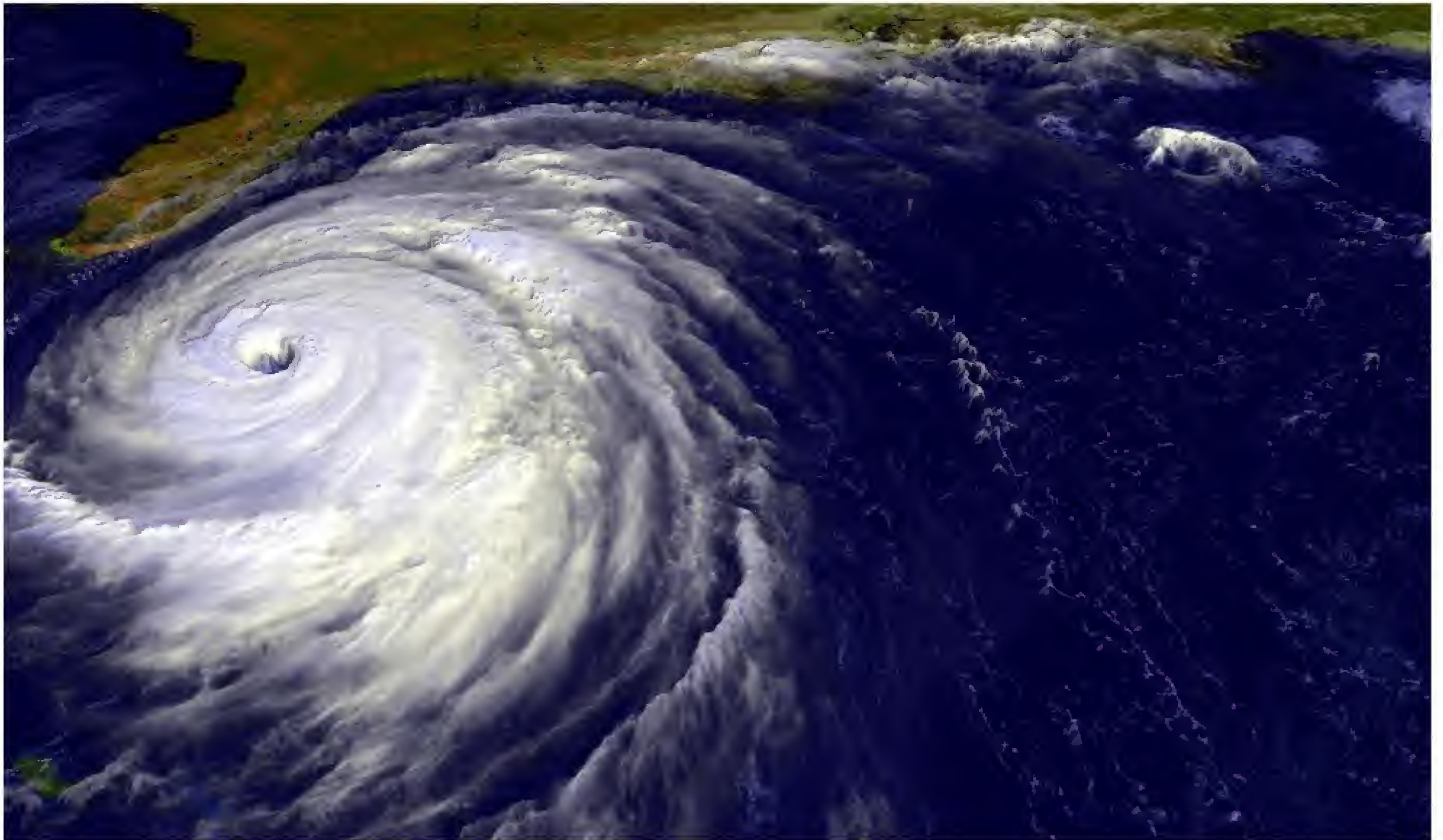
"We are making history in Aruba today, starting a new era in the aviation sector. Happy Flow is the first ever 100% self-service passenger flow based on the use of biometrics to provide a secure, quick and happy experience for the passengers. Furthermore it provides the authorities with a powerful end-to-end management platform which allows for the monitoring of the whole passenger process with multiple security, efficiency and revenue benefits, respecting the privacy of data at all times," said Senior VP Vision Box Miguel Leitmann.

### Two years

The Aruba Happy Flow pilot will operate at Aruba Airport for two years. At first only a limited group of KLM passengers travelling with an EU passport will be invited to participate in the pilot. They will be invited to do so, upon departure, at the airport on Aruba. If the results of the pilot are encouraging, expansion of the project to include larger groups of passengers is possible. Additional possibilities include integration with the security process, or the introduction of the Happy Flow process at Amsterdam Airport Schiphol.







# Hurricane Season 2015

**HURRICANE** Season 2015 starts on June 1st and ends on November 30th. Experts has given the first forecast as normal and under the normal average. However we need to be well prepared for the dangers that hurricanes cause such as:

- Big waves causing the seawater to rise on land
- Strong winds that can do lots of damages to properties
- Lots of rain that can cause inundation

These can cause possible interruption of electricity, water supply to be cut off and other damages to the infrastructure. This is why measurements have to be taken in order to protect yourself and your family. Make a plan in advance on how to best protect your property and your family. It is important to secure your roofs and windows. A shelter box is advisable to have in your home. Get rid of dangerous object around your property. Check if your insurance covers all damages that can be done to your property and family. All important documents should be kept in a secure place where water can't damage them. Always have cash with you. Have enough food in can, juice, crackers etc and enough drinking water for the whole family according to the needs of every family member for at least three days. It is important to stay informed during the season for all the changes in whether during this season. For more information, please contact us at 588-0100 or via [crisis.mgmt.off@setar.net.aw](mailto:crisis.mgmt.off@setar.net.aw).





Celebrating 50th anniversary

# Kiwanis Club of Aruba WINE GALA EVENT



**THE** annual Wine Gala Event of the Kiwanis Club of Aruba will be held on Saturday, 29th of August at the Renaissance Conference Center at 8:30 to 2:30 with the theme "Oxygen". The decoration will be the rainforest fantasy to compliment the theme. The principal colors which will be used are emerald and copper. The ballroom will be transformed with elements that

will you impress you when you reach and will let you feel an ambiance of the rainforest.

Oxygen therapy is given internationally at oxygen lounges, healing centers and spa's and now possibly also here in Aruba at My Safe and the spa at the Ritz-Carlton.

The collected funds will be destined to cover different projects that the Kiwanis

Club of Aruba does whole year thru at the benefit of the Aruban community. Some of these projects are: the Christmas Lunch at the Imelda Hof, Smile Makerspa, dental care for kids, Panda Book, guidance to prevent sexual abuse of kids, Kite project, Don't Text and Drive Campaign. There are just some of the projects the Kiwanis Club of Aruba is involved in.

Tickets for Wine Gala Event can be obtained through all the members of the Kiwanis Club of Aruba. You can also contact them at 567-8567. Buleria, Robert Jeandor & his Solo Banda Show and DJ Edson Tromp are the ones bringing the musical entertainment to make this night unforgettable. Main door-price is a trip for two to Rio de Janeiro.



## The Netherlands threatens to intervene in Prosecutor's Office in Aruba

# For lack of response in integrity cases



**THE HAGUE** – One of the most serious topics that have been discussed in the Inter Parliamentary Kingdom meetings (IPKO) that finalized yesterday was the topic of integrity. During the meetings, the delegation of Parliament Member of the MEP fraction presented information that pointed to a lack of initiative to investigate accusations of integrity of the island's leaders by the Prosecutor's Office. In response to this information the delegation of the Netherlands proposed the creation of a Kingdom law that would establish an Integrity Chamber to monitor Kingdom Governments.

### Prosecutor's Office lacking initiative

While in most countries, the Prosecutor's Office often takes the initiative of starting investigations when it takes notice of certain accusations or questionable and irregular acts, says the MEP, in Aruba the Prosecutor expects the accusers to present the proper evidence before even considering the opening of an investigation.

MEP presented examples in all the many verdicts in which Judges ruled against Ministers asking for rectifications, such as Minister Paul Croes in the work permit case, Minister Michelle Hooyboer-Winklaar in the insurance case, and Minister Otmar Oduber in the case of the former Bushiri Hotel. In all of these cases, the MEP said, the Judges found that the Ministers acted questionably and did not provide a sufficient

account for their decisions. In some cases, words such as "corruption", and "bribery" were also mentioned.

But in none of these instances did the Prosecutor's Office initiate its own investigation, not even to remove the doubt of corruptive acts, said the MEP. "There is also case of the penal complaints against Ministers that the Prosecutor's Office does not investigate if those giving the complaints cannot provide evidence that a Minister took money for himself, a proof that we as Parliament Members cannot provide, and therefore ask the Prosecutor to at least conduct a preliminary investigation to remove any doubt," said leader of the MEP Evelyn Wever-Croes during the meetings at The Hague. The MEP says that in part because the Prosecutor's Office does not investigate these cases, the Ministers continue to act as they please, without giving an account for their actions, and in so doing "day by day [they] create more doubt in their integrity."

### Intervention by the Netherlands

Towards the end of the meetings the Netherlands presented a proposition for the introduction of another measure, in the form of a Rijkswet, a Kingdom law, which would create an Integrity Chamber for the supervision of the integrity of country leaders, similar to the financial supervision currently being exercised by the Board of Financial Supervision (CFT),

the MEP informed. "Naturally the MEP is against this, because we would again be giving up [some] of our autonomy! We are aware that something needs to happen, that we cannot go on like this, and that the corruption on our island must be stopped. But we do not want to see another part of our fight [for autonomy] given up just because of the irresponsibility of Mike Eman and his Ministers," Wever-Croes said.

In the end, it was possible to postpone the discussion of such a Kingdom law until the next IPKO which is scheduled to take place in January on the island of St. Maarten. "But in the meanwhile," Wever-Croes said, "let this be a sign and warning to Mike Eman and his Ministers that they must behave according to rules, laws and principles of good governance, or Aruba will have another intervention from the Netherlands and lose more of its autonomy."

## Children's rights are our priority

"**PROTECTION**, education, care and healthcare of our children will always be our priority as country a country partaking at the international treaty of children's rights." These were the words of Paul Croes, Minister in charge of Social Affairs, Youth and Labor, during his visit to Genève last week to attend the convention where the treaty of children's rights was treated. The Minister accompanied the delegation of the Dutch Kingdom to Geneva in Switzerland. During his presentation, he elaborated on the efforts our country is doing, as co-signer of the treaty, to continue to comply with the children's rights.

The minister pointed out a recent study that the University of Aruba has done on norms and values of the youth in Aruba. He also elaborated on the ongoing and important endeavors that NGO's of Aruba is doing to support our children and young people in their developments. "The Government of Aruba has the treaty on the children's rights on top of the list on the political agenda. Our commitment is seen in the integral management on our youth signed and supported by 4 Ministers of the Mike Eman II Cabinet. Ministers of Justice, Education, Health and myself are in charge with the management of our youth", said Minister Paul Croes further.

The commission of children's rights was satisfied with the efforts the Government of Aruba is doing in the fulfillment of the treaty. More recommendations for the situation in Aruba will be implemented.





# Strategic Workforce Planning

## Also applicable for Aruba



**RECENTLY** PwC Dutch Caribbean held two seminars with the topic: Compliance & Asset Management and Strategic Workforce Planning. Two speakers from Holland were invited to elaborate on these topics, especially on the financial institutes which are under supervision of the Central Bank of Aruba. There is also information given on how management of companies can deal with risk that can occur.

PwC designed a tool that gives improvements in the human resources of a company as well as in the cost of the employees. If certain cautions are taken, the consequences of changes in the quantity of the employees of the company can be measured and what impact this can have on the company.

Linda Vos, senior consultant at PwC of Holland, focused on the relation the employer has on the employees and how he can improve this according to the existing laws.

The way how Holland applies the Strategic Workforce Planning in the public sector as well as in the private sector, was taken as an example and they showed also how to adapt this to the management of the Human Resources and its developments in the future.

Those were present were of different companies and sectors and acquired a knowledge how to better apply the Strategic in Aruba and how to help each other reach a more efficient economy based on the developments of Human Resources in Aruba.



## Various beaches refreshed

**EARLIER** this week had Minister Otmar Oduber a meeting with DOW and ATA upon the maintenance of the beaches and our sea. Together with the Tourism Department, DOW and other instances a process will soon start to refresh different beaches on the island. It is expected that in the following days a pilot project will initiate and in the first weeks in June the maintenance process will be realized. The Minister said that the Tourism Department since this year has a new unity that will take care of the Product Aruba. "We can market our island in the best way possible, but also experience on our island is very important".

Seeing the big success of the ATA and the motion that was approved in the Parliament that will give the ATA the possibility to create something like this as long as the budget allows, a business plan was realized according to a study done, and the new unity of the Product Aruba was formed. This unity will put all attention on Product Aruba. One of the aspects that is getting a lot of attention is our beaches according to the Beach Policy which is the organization on our beaches, the infrastructure, kiosk which give service to our visitors. This will

take the pressure in the hotel area. This can offer the possibility to open new beaches like the Surf Side Beach, Arashi Beach, and also the Eagle Beach. Also the sea belongs to our beaches.

There are spots containing rocks and sea weeds that makes it difficult for these to be used as beaches. There are also other spots as the Playa Linda, the Holiday Inn and the Marriott where the sea has been contaminated, almost becoming mud and sometimes stinks. These are the beaches that will be attended and refreshed with high priority.

The intention is to start the first pilot project in the area of the Surf Side, from next the airport to the Surf Side Marina. During this process an evaluation will be done on everything that went well and everything that need improvement. The second pilot project will be done at the hotel area where the problem is bigger. In the meanwhile will Minister Otmar Oduber with his colleagues Minister Schwengle and Minister de Meza, look into the possibilities to come with a legal permit which will ban the use of plastic cups and other items that contaminate the waters and beaches.







Aruba Bank

# Walk & RUN

THE Aruba Bank is very happy to announce that the Annual Walk & Run was a complete success. There was a total of 2500 participants who had the choice of walking or running on the route of the 11th Aruba Bank Walk & Run. This is the most popular Walk & Run event which is supported by their co-partners Subway and partner IBISA.

The excitement of all participants was noticed during all the days. Work groups, friends groups, family groups, different organizations joined the Walk & Run to make it reach success.

There were also professional runners seeking to win or improve their time. Admirable was also the amount of people standing at the side of the route to see the participants and encourage their friends and families to continue to reach the goal.

The four day Aruba Bank Walk & Run was a success and the invitation is extended by the Aruba Bank and the partners for next year for their 12th Annual Walk & Run.





# CUBA REMOVED FROM US TERROR LIST



**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The U.S. has taken Cuba off its list of state sponsors of terrorism. Secretary of State John Kerry has signed an order removing Cuba from the U.S. terrorism blacklist as part of the process of normalizing relations between the Cold War foes.

Kerry acted 45 days after the Obama administration informed Congress of its intent to do so. Lawmakers had that much time to weigh in and try to block the move, but did not do so.

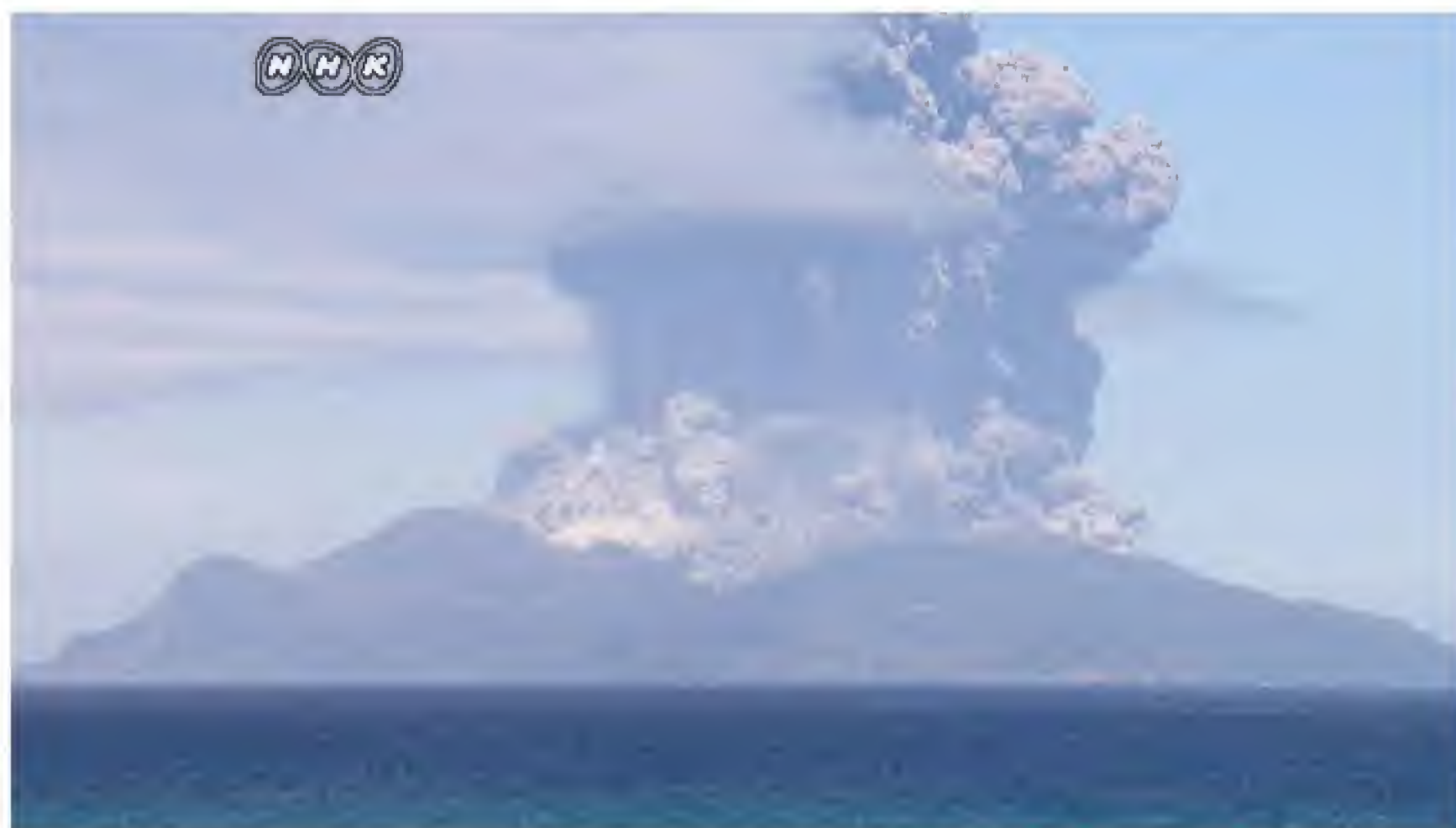
The step comes as officials from the countries continue to hash out details of restoring full diplomatic relations, including opening embassies in Washington and Havana and returning ambassadors to the two countries. Friday's removal of Cuba from the terrorism list had been a key Cuban demand.



# Small Japanese Island Evacuated as Volcano Violently Erupts

**NBC NEWS** - Japanese authorities ordered all of the people on a small island to evacuate after a volcano erupted Friday morning in a towering plume of thick, black smoke almost six miles high and a shower of fiercely hot rock and toxic gases.

Japan's main government spokesman, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga, told reporters that all 137 people believed to be on the southern island of Kuchinoerabu were confirmed safe. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe set up a task force to coordinate operations. The national broadcaster NHK broadcast a bulletin showing smoke billowing over Mount Shindake, which the Japanese Meteorological Agency said erupted violently at 9:59 a.m. (8:59 p.m. ET).



At a news conference late Friday morning, Sadayuki Kitagawa, director of the Meteorological Agency's volcanology division, characterized the eruption as one of "explosive power," with a smoke plume rising 9,000 meters, or almost 30,000 feet, from the crater. Kitagawa said a pyroclastic flow — a fluidized mixture of blazing rock fragments and toxic gases — was flowing from the volcano and had reached the island's

northwest coast.

He said the alert level of 5, the highest on the scale, was being maintained because more powerful eruptions are possible.

Kuchinoerabu is part of the remote Ryukyu archipelago south of the mainland. Access to the island is only possible by boat, and a nearby ferry service is expected to be diverted to begin evacuating the island's residents.



**CBS NEWS - WASHINGTON** - U.S. economic growth in the first three months of the year was even weaker than initially estimated, slowed by harsh winter weather and a widening trade deficit.

The Commerce Department said Friday overall economy as measured by the gross domestic product shrank at an annual rate of 0.7 percent in the January-March period. That's down from 2.2 percent in the fourth quarter of 2014.

GDP is the broadest measure of U.S. economic strength, seeking to measure the total value of all goods and services produced in a calendar year.

The revised figure, even weaker than the government's initial estimate of a 0.2 percent growth rate, reflects a bigger trade gap and slower consumer spending. It marked the first decline since a 2.1 percent contraction in the first three months of 2014, a slump that was also blamed on winter weather.

The unusually high snowfall this winter reduced GDP in the first quarter by 0.8 percentage point, estimates Macroeconomic Advisers, which also points to a February work slowdown at ports along the West Coast as having depressed growth. Another

## GDP report: U.S. economy shrank in the first quarter

headwind was the decline in crude oil prices, which hurt energy companies, while many forecasters think that seasonal distortions understated first-quarter growth. "The record cold winter in the Northeast and the slump in the shale oil industry were the principal reasons why first-quarter GDP apparently shrank by 0.7 percent annualized, which was a worse outcome than the initial estimate of a 0.2 percent gain," said Paul Ashworth, chief U.S. economist with Capital Economics, in a note. Of the 0.9 percent downward revision in first-quarter GDP, 0.4 percent came from businesses spending less on restocking their shelves; another 0.6 percent from a reduction in net exports.

Noting that economic output is typically weakest early in the year, forecasters expect a rebound in the current quarter to growth of around 2 percent and for the economy to strengthen later this year.

Stuart Hoffman, chief economist with PNC Financial Services Group, thinks that in the months ahead solid job gains and modest wage growth will help drive up consumer spending, which accounts for roughly two-thirds of economic activity. He also expects business investment to pick up and for the drag on the energy sector from lower oil prices to fade.

Still, the economy could struggle to match the pace of growth in 2014, when GDP grew 2.4 percent. The Federal Reserve expects growth of 2.5 percent this year.



# Army finds another batch of live Anthrax

**NBC NEWS** - Another batch of live anthrax has turned up - this one from the same batch as samples sent to Australia from the Army's Dugway Proving Grounds in Utah.

Defense officials tell NBC News the anthrax spores had been irradiated to kill them in 2008.

This does not necessarily mean the samples sent to the lab in Australia contained live anthrax spores, the officials say. They've been testing samples thought to have been inactivated ever since it turned out Dugway had sent potentially live spores to labs in nine states and an air base in South Korea.

Experts say it's very difficult to inactivate a large batch of anthrax spores and say it's a problem across U.S. labs. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which is helping investigate the matter, says no member of the public is in danger and people who may have been exposed to the anthrax spores are taking antibiotics just to be safe.

U.S. military and health officials are trying to figure out how anthrax from a batch containing live spores got sent to labs in nine states, Australia and South Korea. Here's what you need to know about the blunder:

## IS ANYONE GOING TO GET INFECTED?

It's unlikely, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says. The samples were irradiated to kill them and even if a few spores did survive, the samples would have been packaged for shipment. It takes several thousand spores to infect a person and they have to be inhaled, eaten or get onto the skin to do that. Anyone who's handled the samples out of the packaging has been offered antibiotics but the CDC and other experts say it's really an abundance of caution. Antibiotics can prevent an anthrax infection from ever taking hold.

## HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?

The U.S. military and experts outside the military say it appears that some of the spores lived through the radiation process used to deactivate them. John Peterson, a microbiology professor who works with anthrax at the University of Texas Medical Branch, says the X-rays or gamma rays used to kill anthrax spores might not get every little one.

It's hard working with germs that are invisible to the human eye, experts note. Even in hospitals, where



people expect to be exposed to infectious agents, mistakes happen multiple times every day. For instance, more than 450,000 Americans are infected with potentially deadly *Clostridium difficile* every year. "What's required is eternal vigilance," says Ken Berns, professor emeritus of biology and genetics at the University of Florida. "People have to constantly be aware of what they're doing, thinking about each step that they do, and there have to be checks on all of the procedures as they're carried out."

## DOES THIS HAPPEN OFTEN?

Government sources tell NBC that more than 3,600 transfers of so-called select agents — those that might be used in a biological weapon — have been made without anyone getting infected. NBC News learned there were 300 shipments last year alone, mostly via FedEx. But there have been lab mishaps. Last June, the CDC said live anthrax was accidentally sent internally from one lab to the other without the proper precautions having been taken.

Live smallpox was found in a freezer at the National Institutes of Health last year. Smallpox is only supposed to exist in two places in the world, locked up tight in safes, because the highly deadly virus has been eradicated since 1979. No one got sick in either incident.

## WHY WERE THEY SHIPPING ANTHRAX IN THE FIRST PLACE?

Anthrax is considered one of the top bioterrorism threats. It's dangerous because it forms tiny, hard spores that can float in the air, settle on surfaces, and persist for years until someone touches them or breathes them in and they get activated by the moist human tissue. In 2001, someone sent anthrax spores through the mail to NBC News, other media outlets and to Congress, killing five people and making 17 sick. They included two postal workers and two people who may have handled contaminated mail.

For this reason, government and private labs want to be able to test for anthrax, including using "sniffers" that can find it in places like train stations and shopping malls. They need samples of real spores and bacteria to validate their tests.

Critics such as Richard Ebright of Rutgers University say there are too many labs doing this, however. "There are approximately 1,500 US laboratories authorized to work with fully active, fully virulent, biological weapons agents," he told NBC News. "This number is too large by a factor of 10 to 20."

## IS IT DANGEROUS TO SHIP BIOLOGICAL AGENTS BY FEDEX?

FedEx ships such agents under the supervision of the U.S. government. "There are very stringent regulations about how you have to package agents," Berns said. "Now, the ones that were being sent out — yesterday's incident — should have been less of a problem because they were supposed to be inactive." But Peterson and other experts say even inactivated spores would have been packed carefully.

People may remember the 2001 anthrax attack was carried out by mail and the infected postal workers were unknowingly breathing in spores from envelopes that passed through a mail distribution center in Washington, D.C. But Gigi Kwik Gronvall, a senior associate at the UPMC Center for Biosecurity in Baltimore, points out that those envelopes were meant to leak.

"They were sent with intent to harm in 2001," she points out. "While we have heard that the samples were not improperly inactivated in this case, they were probably properly transported, meaning that they were still sent in containment and there was never any danger to anyone carrying the boxes or anywhere along the chain of delivering the packages," she said.

"The problem in 2001 was the anthrax was put without any packaging into envelopes."



# Record-Breaking Rain Floods No



**NBCDFW** - Flood waters submerged Texas highways and threatened more homes Friday when a squall line stalled over Dallas overnight Thursday, dropping record-setting rainfall and triggering a Flash Flood Emergency in North Texas.

The most recent rain added to the damage inflicted by thunderstorms that have killed at least 20 people statewide, including one overnight in suburban Dallas, and left 13 missing.

The rain seeped into homes and stranded hundreds of drivers across the Metroplex, many of whom lingered along Dallas' Loop 12 for six hours Friday morning after being gridlocked by high water and abandoned vehicles. Overnight, Dallas Fire-Rescue crews responded to more than 270 calls that included trapped vehicles and crashes, authorities said.

## **MAN'S BODY RECOVERED IN MESQUITE AFTER VEHICLES SWEEPED OFF ROADWAY**

Mesquite Fire Department Capt. Kelly Turner said a man's body was found early Friday morning after his truck had been swept into a culvert and submerged.

Turner said people stranded on two cars that were also swept off the road told responders about the truck. He said the truck had been underwater for some time before they found it, and that authorities believe the man, whose name has not been released, was alone in the vehicle.

Recent storms are being blamed for killing seven people in Oklahoma and at least 20 in Texas, where 13 remain missing or unaccounted for.

## **RAINFALL SETS NEW RECORD**

Thursday's storm, which dropped nearly five inches of rain overnight at Dallas Love Field and more than two inches

elsewhere around the Metroplex, helped set a record for the wettest May in Dallas-Fort Worth history.

The previous record for May rainfall was set in 1982 at 13.66 inches and was eclipsed at midnight when 13.87 inches had been recorded for the month. By 8 a.m., the total rose to 16.07 inches; 8.62 inches received in the last week alone.

According to The National Weather Service in Fort Worth, those 16 inches of rainfall amount to more than 35 trillion gallons of rain.

The wettest month ever recorded in North Texas goes all the way back to April 1922 where 17.64 inches were recorded. With more rain expected Friday night and into Saturday, shattering that record remains a possibility.

## **DALLAS COUNTY**

Flooding has blocked a busy highway west of Downtown Dallas, causing major traffic delays in both directions. Overnight rain caused water to pool on Loop 12, under the Interstate 30 overpass Friday morning, trapping commuters for several hours. Some of the drivers said they have been there since 5 or 6 a.m.

Texas Department of Transportation spokesman Tony Hartzel said a crane was brought in after 11 a.m. to remove a section of median so that motorists trapped in the southbound lanes could get off the roadway. The northbound lane had already been cleared.

He said the southbound lanes were more challenging because streets where people could have exited were flooded as well. He said they think that the area where the road usually drains to flooded as well, so there was nowhere for the water to go.

At 10:20 a.m., Dallas Fire-Rescue spokesman Jason Evans

said they had received more than 270 calls for help, most of which were for cars stranded in high water. Evans added there were about 70 crashes reported.

"Obviously 'turn around don't drown' is the phrase of the day," Evans said in a news release. "In addition to turning around, we would encourage drivers to map out at least two alternate routes to where they're going, that way they don't feel pressured to put themselves at risk. Better to be late to something than to put yourself in a situation where you just don't get there at all."

Evans also reminded drivers that if they see an emergency vehicle blocking a roadway, it's there for a reason and to not drive around it.

"While not seeing a warning sign, for high water, can be understood; what's inexcusable is drivers who drive around emergency and service vehicles to drive into the same high waters from which we are rescuing people," Evans said.

Tarik Hawkins told NBC News he was became stranded while trying to drive to work. He said it took him two hours to drive about a mile and described the situation on the road as "very chaotic."

"Right off I-35, there has to be 50 or 60 cars stranded," he said.

Israel Ramos, a 32-year-old tower inspector, said there was three inches of water inside his home and the street outside resembled "a river." He told NBC News that his neighbor called police when he saw an SUV floating down the street with a person inside.

The American Red Cross opened a shelter at the Tony Shotwell Life Center in Grand Prairie, according to spokeswoman Anita Foster. Supplies should arrive at the center at about 8 a.m.

## **TARRANT COUNTY**

Arlington police said they blocked East Abram Street near Texas 360 because of major flooding over the roadway.

Authorities also received high-water calls on Interstate 30 near Oakland Boulevard and University Drive, 7200 Wichita Street and Trinity Boulevard near Precinct Line Road.

An NBC 5 viewer reported that Walnut Creek in Mansfield is swollen and pushing toward residential areas. Nearby Oliver Nature Park is also reportedly under water and closed.

## **JOHNSON COUNTY**

Officials have evacuated or rescued about 19 people, according to Johnson County Emergency Management Coordinator Jamie Moore, but many more could be trapped in their homes.

"This is our fourth major flooding since April 26," he



# North Texas

## How Much Rain Has Fallen in Texas?

According to the National Weather Service in Fort Worth, Texas, over **35 trillion gallons** of rain have fallen in the month of May. Here's some perspective on that number:

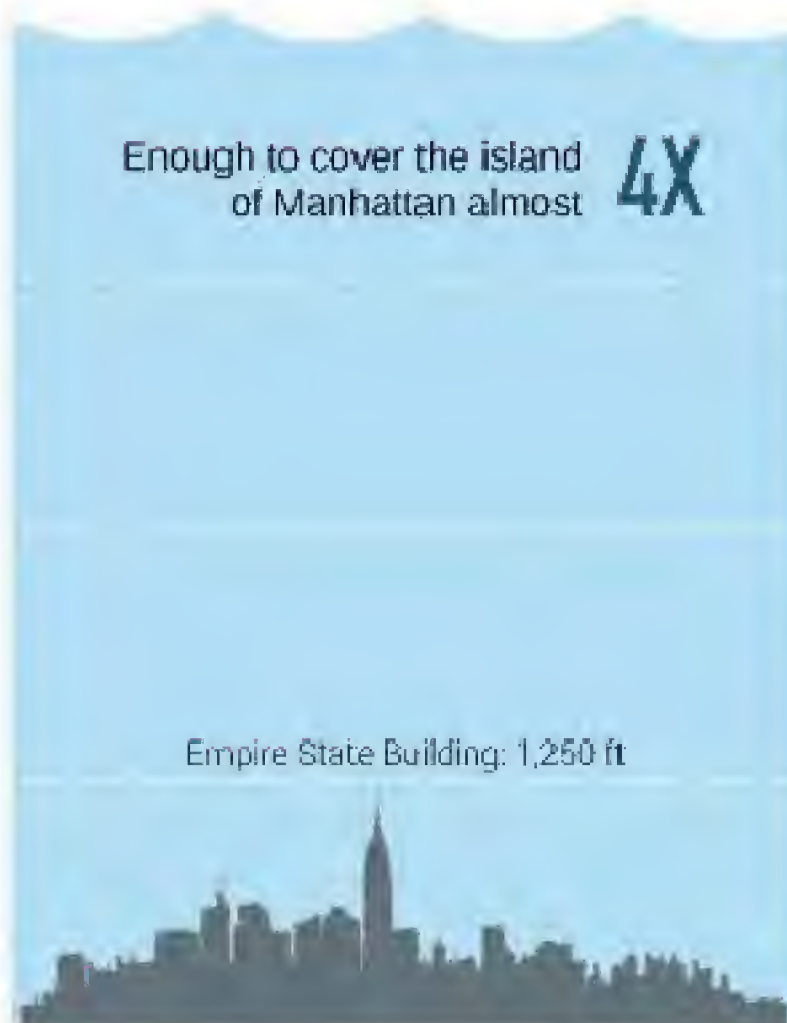
# 35,000,000,000,000 GALLONS



Enough to cover the entire state of Texas in  
**8 inches** of water.



Enough to fill up California's 200 largest surface reservoirs  
**3X** to capacity.



Enough to supply the entire world's population with  
**10,000 days** of water if everyone drank eight 8-ounce glasses a day.



Sources: National Weather Service Fort Worth, California Department of Water Resources  
Credit: Nelson Hsu / NBC

said. "We're doing rescues and having homes that are inundated with water."

About 45 roads are closed in the county due to flooding.

### PARKER COUNTY

Authorities said the Brazos River in Parker County is rising again due to new rain and the opening of two flood gates upstream at Possum Kingdom Lake.

County emergency management spokesman Joel Kertok said Friday that the river had risen above flood stage again after dropping below it Thursday night.

On Thursday, water was lapping at the foundations of 11 homes as the river crested at 23.58 feet before dropping to about 20 feet. The flood stage is at 21 feet. The level rose Friday to 21.4 feet and was expected to rise to nearly 27 feet Saturday.

Residents of about 250 homes near the river, most in the Horseshoe Bend community, were asked to voluntarily evacuate.

"The river is already above flood stage and will continue to rise through today and tomorrow," county emergency management coordinator George Teague said. "This situation will get worse before it gets better."

### FLIGHTS IMPACTED

As of 10 a.m., officials reported that 44 flights into Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport had been canceled; 56 arrivals were delayed. Thirteen flights departing from the airport were canceled and 52 more delayed.

One of D/FW Airport's runways closed temporarily after a storm drain crews were repairing to address a nearby sinkhole collapsed. Officials said they expect the closure to have minimal impact on flights.

Nineteen flights departing from Dallas Love Field were delayed and 19 more canceled. Eighteen flights into the airport were delayed and 18 more canceled.

Dallas Love Field also experienced a power outage caused by a surge overnight, according to airport official Jose Torres. Power has since been restored.





# INTERNATIONAL COUNTERFEITER SENTENCED IN PITTSBURGH TO 7.5 YEARS IN PRISON



**TRIBLIVE** - Joseph Graziano Jr. was either a pathological gambler whose financial crimes were fueled by acne medicine or a crook who loved fancy cars and expensive clothes, those connected to his criminal case say.

Either way, he'll spend up to 7 1/2 years in prison and five years on probation, and must pay \$4 million in restitution, including \$2.4 million to his former employer, BNY Mellon, for bank fraud, Internet fraud and counterfeiting, a federal judge decided Thursday. "Over the last five years, you have literally cheated and stolen your way through life," U.S. District Judge Terrence McVerry told the Downtown man during his sentencing.

Graziano, 29, apologized for his crimes, saying he realizes people pay higher banking fees and pay more at stores because of fraud.

"To all those people and all those businesses, I'm sorry," he said. "I have no excuses for my actions."

Caught up in the high life, he was blinded to what was really important and spent his time with fair-weather friends instead of the family that showed him unconditional love, he said.

"To everyone I've hurt, I'm sorry," Graziano said.

Graziano was a bright, gifted child who started having problems when he took Accutane for acne as a teenager, said his mother, Valerie Graziano.

"I believe it affected his brain chemistry," she said.

Attending the University of Pittsburgh, he won \$1,000 on a \$50 bet in a fantasy football pool, and that started his gambling addiction, she said.

He had extensive therapy and was returning to his old self when Rivers Casino opened, and he spiraled out of control, she said. His crime spree stretched from 2009 to 2013. He has been in custody since February of last year.

Graziano drove around town in Lamborghinis, a Bentley and other expensive cars while attending black-tie events and frequenting the VIP section of the Rivers Casino. In his blog, blackcardstatus.com, he bragged about his lifestyle and offered advice to others.

The advice didn't include how to finance the lifestyle by embezzling money from an employer, financing sports cars with fraudulent loans or selling people items on eBay and shipping them empty boxes, claiming the goods were lost en route.

While he was out on bail on those charges, Graziano committed aggravated identity theft and bought counterfeit currency from Uganda that he laundered through local stores.

"He was committing these crimes to maintain that lifestyle," Assistant U.S. Attorney Tonya Sulia Goodman argued during the sentencing hearing.

Graziano showed a "persistence and arrogance" in

committing his crimes and is considerably younger than most white-collar criminals, Goodman said. Given his abilities, charisma and degree in economics from Pitt, he could have done anything with his life, she said. "He chose to go down this path," she said.

Graziano could have gotten more time in prison. McVerry granted a government motion that effectively cut Graziano's sentence in half. The government made the motion under seal, and Goodman declined comment afterward.

Martin Dietz, Graziano's attorney, declined comment on the motion but noted that his client had been "facing a substantially stiffer sentence."

The judge didn't go along with the government and Graziano on another a motion to further reduce his sentence.

They had agreed in his plea bargain that Graziano's sentence shouldn't be enhanced because he abused a position of trust. The agreement wasn't binding on the judge, and McVerry denied the reduction.

Graziano's initial crime of embezzling from BNY Mellon while he worked as a corporate trust administrator was an "abhorrent abuse of trust," the judge said.

"We are grateful that the court ordered restitution to BNY Mellon and are pleased to put this matter behind us," said bank spokesman Ron Gruendl.



# Fifa re-elects Sepp Blatter as president



**BBC SPORTS** - Sepp Blatter has been re-elected president of Fifa, football's world governing body, in a vote overshadowed by arrests and corruption allegations. Mr Blatter's rival, Prince Ali bin al-Hussein of Jordan, withdrew after the first round of voting.

Mr Blatter fell seven short of the two-thirds needed, but Prince Ali opted not to contest further.

Seven top officials were arrested in Switzerland on Wednesday as part of a US prosecution that indicted 14 people.

Mr Blatter, 79, has faced calls to resign, including from UK Prime Minister David Cameron, who said in Berlin on Thursday that the Fifa president should quit "the sooner the better".

## 'NOBODY IS PERFECT'

But Mr Blatter hailed his victory, thanking all those who voted for him and his rival, Prince Ali.

Mr Blatter said: "I am not perfect, nobody is perfect, but we will do a good job together I am sure."

He also hinted that this term in office, his fifth, could be his last, saying: "At the end of my term I will give up Fifa in a strong position."

## ANALYSIS: MATTHEW KENYON, BBC SPORT

If you read most of the world's media, Sepp Blatter's ability to hang on to power at Fifa is nothing short of miraculous.

After years of negative headlines, the frenzy has reached fever pitch in the wake of the US allegations of corruption - even though Mr Blatter himself has not been implicated. And running through all this is a theme - bemusement that much of the football world keeps voting for him.

Nowhere is Sepp Blatter's support stronger than across Asia and Africa. So why do most of the representatives from those two continents appear to be voting for him

again?

Here's about as succinct an answer as you're going to get - from the president of the Nigerian Football Federation: "Blatter feels Africa. What Blatter pushes is equity, fairness and equality among the nations."

We're talking about two things - the first is concrete investment, often literally so. The second is respect.

In conceding, Prince Ali said: "It's been a wonderful journey... And I want to thank in particular those of you who were brave enough to support me."

Global citizens' movement Avaaz, which started the #BlatterOut campaign, quickly condemned the re-election.

Campaign director Alex Wilks said: "More dirty dealings in Fifa's halls have crushed the hopes of billions of football fans."

The vote took place at Fifa's congress in Zurich. In the first round Mr Blatter won 133 to Prince Ali's 73, just short of the 140 votes needed for an outright win. The two candidates had earlier delivered final appeals to the electors.

Prince Ali, 39, said questions had been raised in recent days "about whether our Fifa family is morally bankrupt".

"There are no easy answers and no blame that can be cast that will wash away the stain that marks us all," he said.

Mr Blatter declared: "I am being held accountable for the current storm - so be it, I will shoulder the responsibility. I will take it upon myself and I want to fix Fifa together with you."

To applause from a large number of delegates, he said: "I would like to stay with you. I would like to continue with you."

## SWISS INQUIRY

The vote comes two days after seven top officials were held in Zurich in a US fraud inquiry that indicted 14 people.

They are accused of bribery, racketeering and money-laundering involving tens of millions of dollars since 1991.

The aim of the bribes was to influence the outcome of bids to stage football tournaments such as the 2010 World Cup in South Africa and the 2016 Copa America in the US, prosecutors say.

Swiss prosecutors have launched a separate investigation into the bidding process for the World Cup tournaments in 2018 in Russia and 2022 in Qatar.

Many of Fifa's major sponsors, including Coca-Cola, Visa, Adidas, McDonald's, Hyundai Motor and Budweiser, have expressed concern over the investigations. After Mr Blatter was re-elected, Coca-Cola said in a statement that Fifa "must now seize the opportunity to begin winning back the trust it has lost".

## 'MOVEMENT FOR CHANGE'

Michel Platini, president of the European football governing body Uefa, praised Prince Ali.

"I am proud that Uefa has defended and supported a movement for change at Fifa - change which, in my opinion, is crucial if this organisation is to regain its credibility," he said.

Mr Platini had called on Mr Blatter to resign on Thursday.

Greg Dyke, the chairman of the English Football Association, told the BBC: "Sepp Blatter has run this organisation for 16 years, and for all of those 16 years, there have been levels of corruption.

"Sepp Blatter is not the man who is going to be able to change that."



# JAMES HARDEN SETS NBA SINGLE-GAME PLAYOFF RECORD WITH 13 TURNOVERS

**BLEACHER REPORT-** Houston Rockets guard James Harden had a rough night in Wednesday's series-ending Game 5 loss to the Golden State Warriors, setting an NBA single-game playoff record with 13 turnovers, per Sports Illustrated.

With the Rockets down 3-1 in the series and trying to send things back to Oakland

for Game 6, Harden turned in his worst performance of the 2015 playoffs, making just two of his 11 field-goal attempts to finish with 14 points, his lowest total of the postseason.

He did have six rebounds, five assists and three steals, but with nearly as many turnovers as points, it's no surprise that his Rockets fell by a score of 104-90.

Prior to

Wednesday, no player (since at least 1985-86) had committed more than 10 turnovers in a single playoff game, with Harden, LeBron James (twice), Kevin Garnett, Tim Duncan, Penny Hardaway and Kevin Johnson the only ones to reach that mark, per Basketball-Reference.com's play index.

Harden previously had 10 turnovers in a playoff game back in 2013, when his Rockets managed to beat his former team, the Oklahoma City Thunder, in spite of the record-tying performance.

Duncan is the only other player to turn the ball over 10 times in a playoff victory, having accomplished the same feat in 2002 against the Los Angeles Lakers

